

(d) In Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu large quantities of tender coconut are produced whereas in Kerala coconut is mainly produced for converting into copra.

(e) Coconut Development Board is implementing following programmes during 9th Plan for increasing production and productivity of coconuts including tender coconut for drinking purpose:

- (i) Production & Distribution of quality planting material,
- (ii) Area expansion under coconut, and
- (iii) Integrated farming for productivity improvement.

Besides, tender coconut variety has been evolved and is being popularised. The Coconut Development is also promoting the consumption of tender coconut water in the country. The Board had earlier provided assistance for setting up of tender coconut water parlours and proposes to promote these parlours at a wider spectrum. Brochures and advertisements are released through mass media for generic promotion of various nutritional and medicinal properties of tender coconut water.

Suicide by farmers in Karnataka

4586. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers who committed suicide in Karnataka during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;
- (b) the details of amount of compensation paid to the victims' families so far, by the State Government and the Central Government; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent suicides among the farmers' community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka have not reported any such suicides.

- (c) Necessary steps in this regard have to be taken by the State Governments concerned.